

North Carolina
National Register Advisory Committee
Minutes
June 8, 2017

The North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on June 8, 2017, in the conference room on the third floor of the Cultural Resources Building, 109 East Jones Street, in downtown Raleigh. Committee members in attendance were: Mr. George Edwards, chair, Mr. Samuel B. Dixon, Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., Dr. Lee Edward Gray, Dr. Valerie A. Johnson, Mr. David Maurer, Dr. Alicia McGill, Ms. Terri Russ, and Dr. Linda F. Stine. Dr. Kristen Baldwin Deathridge and Mrs. Margaret Kluttz were absent.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff members present were: Dr. Kevin Cherry, state historic preservation officer; Ramona Bartos, HPO administrator; Claudia Brown, Survey and National Register Branch supervisor; Jenn Brosz, National Register coordinator; Hannah Beckman, National Register and survey specialist; Beth King, survey specialist; Jennifer Scott, Survey and National Register intern; Andrew Edmonds, GIS specialist; Anna Grantham, assistant file and photography clerk; Scott Power, Eastern Office supervisor; Annie McDonald, preservation specialist, Western Office; Jannette Coleridge-Taylor, Restoration Services Branch assistant; and David Christenbury, preservation architect/state rehabilitation tax credit coordinator.

Visitors in attendance included Steve Claggett, Mary Beth Fitts, Susan Myers, and Sam Franklin of the Office of State Archaeology; Vanessa E. Patrick, NCDOT; Sean Dowell, in support of the Study List application for Erwin Mills No. 2 and No. 5, Harnett County; and Richard Angino, in support of the Study List application for Stanley Mill, Gaston County.

Mr. Edwards called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. with welcoming comments. As the new chair of the committee, he introduced himself and asked everyone in the room to do the same, beginning with NRAC members. He then asked everyone to silence their cell phones and reminded committee members about the conflict-of-interest policy.

Mr. Edwards asked for a report from Dr. Cherry, who gave the following update on department-level activities:

- The state budget for fiscal year 2018 is in the final development stage. It does not appear that the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) is getting all that was requested, but it is likely that there will be funds for a new visitor center at Fort Fisher, two to three digital humanities experts to work with Colonial records; and maintenance funds for State Historic Sites (\$500,000) and the Transportation Museum.
- “Blackbeard 300,” the celebration of the three-hundredth anniversary of the pirate’s time on the North Carolina coast, will begin at this year’s state fair in October and continue through 2018.
- The World War I commemoration celebration is going on throughout the state and includes a centennial exhibit at the Museum of History, which is the museum’s first foray into experiential design.

Mr. Edwards asked Ms. Bartos to give her report on the State Historic Preservation Office. She related the following:

- North Carolina has topped 3,000 National Register listings. In number of listings, North Carolina is now eighth in the country and second in the Southeast to Virginia.
- *Our State Magazine* ran a feature article on the shipwreck of the blockade runner *CSS Agnes Fry*, which ran aground in 1864. The article included coverage of the Underwater Archaeology Unit in the Office of State Archaeology.
- Ms. Bartos reported the following personnel matters:
 - After thirty-five years of service, State Archaeologist Steve Claggett will retire on June 30, 2017. Everyone is invited to a party celebrating his tenure and retirement on June 28. Mr. Claggett received a round of applause.
 - Interviews for Mr. Claggett's successor were completed at the end of May and a preferred candidate has been submitted to the department's Human Resources Office. A new State Archaeologist should be in place by July.

Ms. Bartos noted that there have been staff changes in the Survey and National Register Branch. She recognized Claudia Brown, who made introductions as follows:

- Beth King, survey specialist, whose first project is a comprehensive architectural survey of Whiteville.
- Jenn Brosz, National Register coordinator, who came to North Carolina in May from the South Dakota state historic preservation office.
- Jennifer Scott, summer intern funded by the Conservation Trust of North Carolina, who is drafting an essay for a forthcoming publication on North Carolina's Rosenwald schools.

Ms. Brown also noted that Ben Walker, a recent graduate of the Master's program in historic preservation conducted jointly by Clemson University and the College of Charleston, will start the week of June 12 as National Register assistant. Ms. Brown thanked Hannah Beckman for her hard work as the only Raleigh reviewer of National Register nominations in the absence of a coordinator for several months; and Jannette Coleridge-Taylor for continuing to assist Survey and National Register Branch operations after she became the Restoration Services Branch assistant.

Dr. Johnson gave a brief report on her participation in a new effort to identify civil rights sites to be nominated as World Heritage Sites. She said that Michelle Lanier and Claudia Brown also have been asked to participate so that the DNCR has a voice in the process. Dr. Cherry asked committee members to let staff know of North Carolina civil rights sites that should receive greater recognition.

Consideration of National Register nominations began with a presentation by Annie McDonald of three nominations for properties in the western region (see attached agenda). After the presentation concluded, Mr. Maurer made a motion to approve the nominations. It was seconded by Dr. Stine and unanimously approved.

Before consideration of National Register nominations for properties in the central region began, Mr. Maurer stated for that record that he has been approached to do a project in the Depot Historic District Boundary Increase, but he has no financial interest in the building nor potential benefit from the boundary increase.

Jenn Brosz then presented a nomination for the Granite Mill in Alamance County. When she concluded, Dr. Fonvielle asked if there are plans to repurpose the mill, to which Ms. Brosz responded that she believed so. From the audience, Sean Dowell stated that the property is in the hands of a developer but the specific plans for the property are unknown. Upon a motion by Dr. Johnson and seconded by Dr. Fonvielle, all voted to approve the nomination.

Hannah Beckman presented four nominations for properties in the central region. When she finished, Mr. Edwards asked for questions. Regarding the Arthur C. and Mary S. A. Nash House in Chapel Hill, Dr. Johnson asked if there is information on Mrs. Nash's art and where her work can be found. Ms. Beckman replied that all that is currently known about her is that she was a painter and additional information could be added as it is found. Mr. Edwards asked if the house is privately owned, to which Ms. Beckman responded affirmatively. Mr. Dixon commented that the Nash House received a superb renovation. Regarding Highland Park Mill No. 1, Dr. McGill asked about plans to remove the 1980s additions. Ms. Beckman explained that we do not know if any of the additions will be removed. Mr. Dixon asked if a rectilinear smoke stack is rare; Mr. Edwards commented that a square footprint would be more stable than a round one. Dr. McGill made a motion to approve the four nominations, Mr. Dixon seconded the nomination, and it passed unanimously.

After a recess from 11:26 a.m. to 11:35 a.m., Mr. Edwards reconvened the meeting and asked for presentation of Study List applications to begin. Ms. Beckman presented two applications from the central region (see attached agenda), explaining that staff recommended deferral of a decision on the application for Stanley Mill, in Gaston County, pending the determination of dates of the brick veneer on the 1891 building and the dates of the post-1956 additions, and approval of the application for Liberty Tobacco Warehouse in Surry County.

After she presented the application for Stanley Mill, she stated that developer Richard Angino wished to speak on behalf of the application. Mr. Angino argued for the National Register eligibility of Stanley Mill and the appropriateness of placing it on the Study List based on the information presented in his application. He stated that the largely intact west side of the mill facing the mill village was historically the front of the factory rather than the Main Street (east) side where the original, 1891, building of the complex has been veneered in brick obscuring all original features. He said that a local museum has much information on the mill, but the date of the added veneer is not known. He contended that veneered buildings have been placed on the Study List and that failure to place the property on the Study List will cause problems with his financing and thus is a vote for its demolition because a "big box" builder is interested in the property.

Ms. Brown reminded the committee that the NRAC's responsibility is solely to consider potential National Register eligibility and there should be no discussion of development and tax credits. She reiterated the staff recommendation is not denial; rather it is deferral of a decision regarding placement on the Study List pending additional information. She explained the tension between Study List and Part 1 of the tax credit certification application, noting that there have been a number of recent situations in which an industrial property has been placed on the Study List with the qualification that a nomination would not be successful unless changes such as removal of brick veneer are made, but then a Part 1 presenting the property before any of the changes have been made is submitted to the National Park Service and HPO

staff is asked to certify it as eligible for listing in the Register. Ms. Bartos clarified that it is a timing issue and that staff needs adequate information about the history of the building so we don't get ahead of ourselves on designations when the property may have some issues that could jeopardize eligibility for the tax credits. Mr. Angino alluded to small towns' lack of development funds and lobbying efforts that resulted in the creation of the mill credits that make redevelopment happen. Dr. Cherry commented that the same people who passed the mill credits look at altered industrial properties and question the argument that they are historic.

Mr. Maurer stated that he agrees with staff's concerns about Stanley Mill and that the assertion that the Main Street façade is secondary needs to be explored before a decision is made regarding placement on the Study List. Mr. Angino continued to argue that the location of the mill village west of the mill clearly shows that the west side of the mill is the main façade.

At this point, DNCR Secretary Susi Hamilton entered the conference room to extend her greetings to the committee and offer a few comments. She related that she had been at the Legislature Building fighting for DNCR's budget request and thanked the NRAC for their efforts to preserve the state's historic resources.

Ms. Beckman completed her presentation of Study List applications and then Claudia Brown presented applications for Walltown School in Durham, for which staff recommended deferral of a decision pending additional information about alterations to the interior, and Erwin Mills No. 2 and No. 5 in Harnett County, for which staff recommended approval.

A discussion of Study List applications for central region properties ensued. Ms. Brown clarified the staff recommendation that a decision regarding Stanley Mill be deferred pending additional information about the dates of alterations and additions. Ms. Bartos reminded the committee that as a procedural matter, the NRAC's decisions regarding Study List dovetail with the tax credit application process. Ms. Brown noted that placement on the Study List is merely a screening process indicating that a property appears to be potentially eligible, but people tend to view it as a determination of eligibility. She added that a Part 1 often immediately follows placement on the Study List, and if the property has problematic alterations, staff may be forced to evaluate the property as ineligible and thereby jeopardize the redevelopment project; with additional information about the dates of the changes to the property, staff would be able to make a better-informed decision on the Part 1. Mr. Angino argued that he should not have to pay a historian \$10,000 to \$15,000 to do such research at this early stage.

Dr. Johnson said that a strengthening of the Study List application is requested; if the National Park Service is cautioning the HPO about approval of altered properties, additional information should be required. Mr. Maurer asked about the degree of integrity required for a Criterion A nomination for industrial significance as opposed to a Criterion C nomination for architectural significance. Ms. Beckman replied that the level of integrity is not necessarily as high for a Criterion A argument as for a Criterion C argument, but the building's fabric must still be able to tell the story of the property's industrial development under Criterion A. Ms. Bartos stated that staff is not negatively disposed to Stanley Mill; staff simply needs additional information. Mr. Maurer said that he wants to be sure the committee has adequate information to make an informed decision about the property's potential eligibility. Mr. Maurer made a motion to

accept staff recommendations regarding the four Study List applications for properties in the central region, Dr. Gray seconded the motion, and all voted for its approval.

A recess for lunch began at 12:25 p.m. When Mr. Edwards reconvened the meeting at 1:10 p.m., Dr. Cherry conducted a brief ceremony recognizing the participation of Dr. Stine, whose tenure on the NRAC would end with completion of her third consecutive term on June 30, 2017. Dr. Cherry presented Dr. Stine with a gift and staff photographer Mathew Waehner took photos of Dr. Stine, Dr. Cherry, and Ms. Bartos.

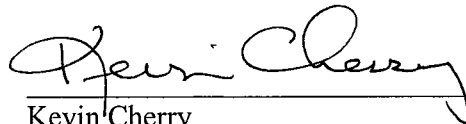
Consideration of Study List applications continued with Scott Power's presentation of an application for Beaufort Graded School in Carteret County. A motion made by Mr. Dixon to place the school on the Study List, seconded by Ms. Russ, passed unanimously.

Annie McDonald presented a Study List application for the Dr. William J. Hughes House in Buncombe County. After the presentation, Mr. Edwards asked for clarification regarding the Leicester Historic District, placed on the Study List in 1996, in which the Hughes House is a contributing property. Ms. McDonald explained that the district experienced many changes after it was placed on the Study List, including building demolitions, alterations to buildings, and construction of new buildings, and that during the environmental review process for a road widening in 2006, it was determined that the district is no longer eligible for listing in the National Register. Dr. Johnson moved for placement of the Hughes House on the Study List, Dr. Stine seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

Mr. Edwards asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2017, NRAC meeting, which had been distributed to the committee at the beginning of the meeting. With a motion for approval by Ms. Russ and a second by Dr. McGill, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Edwards expressed his thanks to Dr. Stine for her six years of service and to the entire NRAC and staff for their participation. He noted that the next meeting would be held on October 12, 2017. Upon a motion by Dr. Stine, seconded by Ms. Russ and approved by all, Mr. Edwards adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Cherry", written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Cherry
State Historic Preservation Officer

KC/cp
Attachments

NATIONAL REGISTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Conference Room, Third Floor, Cultural Resources Building
109 East Jones Street, Raleigh
June 8, 2017

Agenda

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>PROPERTY/LOCATION</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
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NATIONAL REGISTER

SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER BRANCH

Western Region

Avery	Banner Elk School Banner Elk	Annie McDonald
Caldwell	J. M. Bernhardt Planing Mill and Box Factory – Steele Cotton Mill Lenoir	
	Lenoir Cotton Mill – Blue Bell, Inc. Plant Lenoir	

Central Region

Alamance	Granite Mill Haw River	Jenn Brosz
Forsyth	R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Buildings 2-1 and 2-2 Winston-Salem	Hannah Beckman
Mecklenburg	Highland Park Mill No. 1 Charlotte	
Orange	Arthur C. and Mary S. A. Nash House Chapel Hill	
Wake	Depot Historic District Boundary Increase Raleigh	

STUDY LIST

SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER BRANCH

Central Region

Gaston	Stanley Mill Stanley	Hannah Beckman
Surry	Liberty Tobacco Warehouse Mount Airy	
Durham	Walltown School Durham	Claudia Brown
Harnett	Erwin Mills No. 2 and No. 5 Erwin	

Eastern Region

Carteret	Beaufort Graded School Beaufort	Scott Power
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Western Region

Buncombe	Dr. William J. Hughes House Leicester	Annie McDonald
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